(NFC), lack of political will, forestry institutions in disarray and a forest administration without vision are some of the problems plaguing the country's forest conservation efforts;

(b) whether it is a fact that the committee has recommended an ambitious plan for forest certification and initiation of a Project Bustard to save the great Indian Bustard with only 500 left in the world; and

(c) if so, the response of Government and the action proposed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) No, Sir. However, National Forest Commission has recommended that the Central and State Governments are to give unstinted political commitment for providing financial & infrastructure support to forest conservation in the country.

(b) Yes, Sir. National Forest Commission has recommended specifically to save Great Indian Bustard and also emphasizes the need to monitor & assess the forests with the help of criteria and indicator for sustainable forest management.

(c) The Government is providing legal support under Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 and financial support under the centrally sponsored scheme of Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries for wildlife conservation in the country including conservation of the Great Indian Bustard.

The Government of India has developed 43 indicators for assessment of sustainability of forests.

Submerging of coastal villages of Orissa in sea

1854. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of cases of coastal villages of Orissa being submerged in sea;

(b) whether Government have studied new pattern of recurrent heat waves and cyclone in the coastal Orissa;

(c) if so, the details of the causes of extreme climatic changes; and

(d) what steps are being taken to rescue and restore the climatic balance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The studies carried out by Indian Meteorological (IMD) suggest that the frequency of heat waves and severe heat waves has increased after 1991. But the above changes may not be attributed to a long term increasing trend. Therefore no definite causal reasons can be given.

(d) The climatic balance is a global issue. India is a Party to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Kyoto Protocol, which addresses the issues related to global warming and climate change.

Deaths due to snake bite

†1855. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of cases of deaths due to snake bite is maximum in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the reasons behind most of such deaths is non-availability of treatment at health centres immediately, specially in rural areas;

(c) if not, the details of efforts being made by Government in this regard; and

(d) Government's reaction on the report of national seminar on snake bite organized with the courtesy of World Health Organisation in Kochi?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) to (c) As per the compiled data based on the information received from Directorate of Health Services of respective States/UTs, the number of deaths reported due to snake bite in the country is 669 in 2004 and 457 in 2005.

Since Health is a State subject, the anti-snake venom drugs/vaccines are procured by the State Governments directly from the manufacturing

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.